

**San José State University**  
**Political Science**  
**POLS 4 Spring 2020**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Kristina Mitchell
Office Location:	Clark Hall 404B
Telephone:	408-924-6424 (email is best!)
Email:	<a href="mailto:Kristina.mitchell@sjsu.edu">Kristina.mitchell@sjsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 12-3pm
Class Days/Time:	T/R 3-4:15
Classroom:	DMH 160

**Course Description (Required)**

Introductory survey of major topics in international relations, including global, national and individual causes of war and peace, international cooperation, north-south relations and political economy. GE Area: D3

**Course and GE Learning Objectives (CLOs and GELOs):**

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the connection between the theories of international relations and the observations we see in the real world.
2. Identify actors in international politics and their role in shaping the world.
3. Explain the sources, types, and consequences of armed conflict.
4. Describe the role of economic and human development in international relations.
5. Evaluate the ability of international relations as a discipline to explain the world as we observe it and to predict future events

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
- 4) Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

## **Textbook**

Kegley/Blanton, MindTap World Politics ISBN 9781337130585

Drezner, Daniel. Theories of International Politics & Zombies (Revived Edition). ISBN 9780691163703

## **Exams:**

Each student must take three exams worth 20% each. There will be three midterm exams and an optional comprehensive final exam. **NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN.** The comprehensive final may be used as a makeup for a missed exam or as a replacement for your lowest midterm score.

## **Papers:**

Students will be expected to write two 2-3 page papers throughout the course. Each paper should examine a current international issue (military, economic, cultural, etc.) by providing both a brief summary of the issue and explaining it in terms of the theories of international politics as discussed in class.

## **Participation in IR Simulation:**

We will be participating in an IR simulation throughout the semester! The dates are listed in the course calendar. You and your group will have to work together on the challenge of the day. You will be graded on your attendance and participation.

## **Grade Distribution**

The grading breakdown for the course assignments is as follows:

- Participation in IR Simulation: 20%
- Short Papers – 20% (10% each)
- Exams – 60% (20% each)

You can use this grade distribution to calculate what is possible for you based on your grades on assignments. Please note the weighting of each assignment and keep it in mind as you complete your work.

## **Final Grade Determination**

97 & above: A plus

92-96: A

90-91: A minus

87-89: B plus

82-86: B

80-81: B minus

77-79: C plus

72-76: C

70-71: C minus

67-69: D plus

62-66: D

60-61: D minus

59.99 & below: F

I do not have a policy of rounding grades. Rounding and curving decisions are made by the professor after all final grades are calculated. Even an 89.999 can be considered a B plus. Grades are not assigned based on individual need.

- Do not contact me with a question or request for your final grade to be rounded, curved, or increased.
- Do not contact me asking for extra credit that has not been specifically offered to the whole class via email announcement.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## **Classroom Protocol**

### **Course Rules**

1. Always maintain professional and respectful language, in class, in emails and in your coursework.
2. Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in a loss of credit for the assignment and possibly a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other forms of bigotry are not acceptable in this class.
3. You are responsible for all information and announcements made in the course. Prepare to log onto Canvas every day to check for updates, changes, or new information. Read the course home page thoroughly and check announcements daily. Course rules, schedule, and day-to-day are subject to change, please pay close attention to course announcements.
4. Late work will not be accepted for any reason. To be clear, late work will not be accepted for any reason whatsoever.
5. Students may not print, save, photograph, or make any record of graded content in this course.

### **Professionalism**

Here is a quick-start on professionalism in your communication with your professors:

- Don't ask a question that you could have answered yourself. Read all information and instructions in Canvas before you send an email.
  - Use an appropriate Subject Line that identifies yourself and your concern (don't just say, "HELP")
  - Address the recipient by his or her professional title, such as Professor, Dr., Mr., or Ms. (NOT Mrs. or Miss unless instructed otherwise)
  - Your first sentence should introduce yourself and include your course and section number. • Be specific about what your request is. Demonstrate that you have read and understood course information and instructions.
  - Use proper grammar and spelling. Punctuate and capitalize. Proofread.
  - Allow 24 hours for a response to your email during the week. Do not expect email responses on weekends. Do not send multiple emails on the same topic within a 24 hour period without waiting for a response.
- If you send an email that does not follow these guidelines, don't be surprised if you get a response that states, "Please revisit the Professionalism section of your course home page and email again."

### **University Policies (Required)**

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is

available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Please be sure to go over these policies..

## Course Schedule

### Class Schedule

#### Note the simulation days!

#### Week 1 – January 23

Class Intro

#### Week 2 – January 28<sup>th</sup>

Marxism & Feminism  
Kegley/Blanton Chapter 1 & 2  
Simulation: January 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Week 3 – February 4<sup>th</sup>

Realism  
Kegley Blanton Chapter 3  
Drezner: Introduction - Realpolitik  
Simulation: Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Week 4 – February 11<sup>th</sup>

Liberalism  
Kegley Blanton Chapter 3  
Drezner: Liberal World Order

#### Week 5 – February 18<sup>th</sup>

Constructivism  
Kegley Blanton Chapter 3  
Drezner: Social Construction  
Exam Review

#### Exam 1 February 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Week 6 – February 25<sup>th</sup>

Domestic Factors  
Drezner: Domestic Politics  
Simulation: February 18<sup>th</sup> (not Thursday!!)

#### First Paper Due February 25<sup>th</sup> in Canvas

#### Week 7 – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Applications of Theory  
Drezner: Conclusion  
Simulation: March 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Week 8 – March 10<sup>th</sup>

International Conflict & Security  
Kegley Blanton Ch 7 & 8

#### Week 9 – March 17<sup>th</sup>

Exam Review

**Exam 2 March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 10 – March 24<sup>th</sup>**

International Law  
Kegley Blanton Ch 5 & 9  
Simulation March 26<sup>th</sup>

**No Class March 30<sup>th</sup>-Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Week 11 – April 7<sup>th</sup>**

International Organizations  
Kegley Blanton Ch 6  
Simulation: April 9<sup>th</sup>

**Second Paper Due April 9<sup>th</sup> in Canvas**

**Week 12 – April 14<sup>th</sup>**

International Political Economy  
Kegley Blanton Ch 10

**Week 13 – April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Exam 3 April 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Simulation: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Week 14 – April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Globalization & Human Rights  
Kegley Blanton Ch 13 & 14

**Week 15 – May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Simulation wrap-up  
Final Exam Review May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Final Exam May 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 (final exam schedule is online at SJSU website)**